
FISCAL TOPICS

Fiscal Services Division

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School Aid — Area Education Agency Funding — FY 2024

There are nine Area Education Agencies (AEAs), which are funded in the school aid finance formula through a mix of State aid from the General Fund and property tax at the school district level. AEAs have no taxing authority, so each school district generates an AEA's portion of property tax through the school levy rate. Within the school aid formula, the State aid and property tax funding flows from the school district to the AEA; however, school districts do not pay the AEAs directly. The Department of Management (DOM) adjusts school district payments to account for the AEA funding amount.

AEA Services. AEA services are grouped into three areas: Special Education, Media Services, and Educational Services.

- **Special Education.** Each AEA is required to establish a Division of Special Education that provides special education programs and services to school districts within the AEA boundary. Duties include: identifying children requiring special education, ensuring identified children receive an appropriate special education program or service, supervising special education support personnel, providing each district and the Department of Education (DE) with a special education weighted enrollment count, and providing special education instructional and support program plans and applications to the DE.
- **Media Services.** Each AEA provides media services to school districts within the AEA boundary. These services include providing a materials lending library containing print and other media items, a professional library for educator growth, a curriculum library, a production service offering print and other media materials, and a delivery service for distribution of materials to and from school. Additionally, AEAs may provide consultative services, cooperative purchasing programs, equipment repair programs, and access to data and resource information systems.
- **Educational Services.** Each AEA provides educational services to school districts within the AEA boundary and, at the school district's request, to providers of child development services who have received grants from the Child Development Coordinating Council. These services encompass a variety of programs and services. Any service not related to special education or media is assigned to the educational services category and will differ between the AEAs.

The AEAs are also responsible for juvenile shelter and detention home instruction.

School Aid Funding Amounts. Funding for AEAs through the school aid formula is generated on a per pupil basis. There is a State cost and AEA per pupil cost for specific program areas. The State supplemental aid (SSA) rate is applied to the State cost per pupil and the rate per pupil is calculated. The amount of change is then applied to each of the AEA cost per pupil amounts (which differ by AEA) to determine the new AEA per pupil amount and then multiplied by the specified enrollment to determine the overall program cost. The following is a listing of the AEA program areas funded through the school aid formula:

More Information

Department of Education: www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/school-business-and-finance/financial-management/budgets-area-education-agencies

LSA, Legal Services Division, Legislative Guide: www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LG/970645.pdf

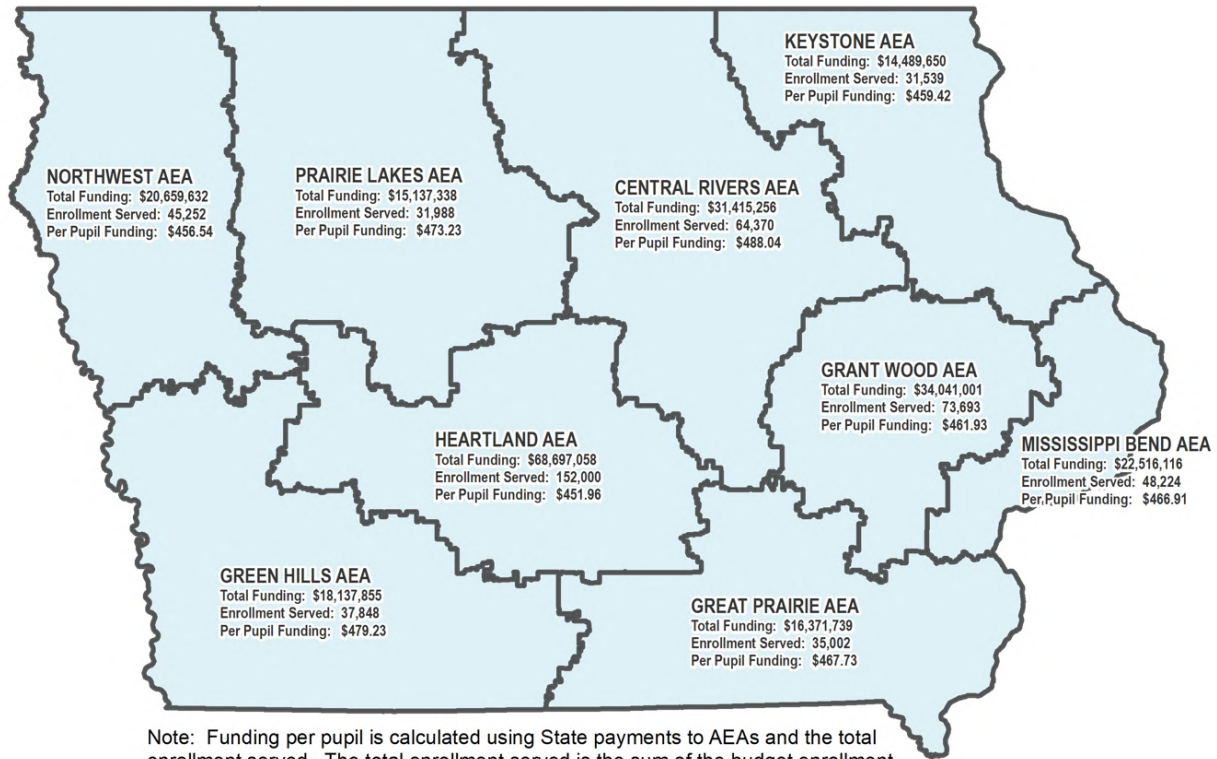
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- Media Services.** Media services are funded entirely from local property tax and are calculated by multiplying the AEA cost per pupil amount by the total enrollment served. The total enrollment served is defined as each school district’s budget enrollment and the number of resident-accredited nonpublic students with each school district (not including the shared-time nonpublic students already counted in the budget enrollment). Funds generated for media services may be used, if needed, to fund excess costs associated with special education support.
- Educational Services.** Educational services are funded entirely from local property tax and are calculated by multiplying the AEA cost per pupil amount by the total enrollment served. Funds generated for educational services may be used, if needed, to fund excess costs associated with special education support.
- Teacher Salary Supplement.** The teacher salary supplement is funded entirely from State aid and is calculated by multiplying the AEA cost per pupil amount by the AEA weighted enrollment. There is a budget guarantee provision that specifies that the amount of funding generated at the school district level is guaranteed at the previous fiscal year’s level. The budget guarantee provision is funded from State aid.
- Professional Development Supplement.** The professional development supplement is funded entirely from State aid and is calculated by multiplying the AEA cost per pupil amount by the AEA weighted enrollment. There is a budget guarantee provision that specifies that the amount of funding generated at the school district level is guaranteed at the previous fiscal year’s level. The budget guarantee provision is funded from State aid.
- Shared Operational Functions.** AEA’s may generate [supplementary weightings](#) for [shared operational functions](#), although the calculations for funding differ from a school district sharing. AEA’s can receive a minimum of \$30,000 and no more than \$200,000 per year. Supplementary weighting is funded from a mix of State aid and local property tax generated from the AEA’s special education cost per pupil, the AEA foundation level of 79.0%, and weightings as set by the DOM to generate the minimum level of funding.

School Aid Formula AEA Funding by Fiscal Year

Program Area	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	Est. FY 2024
Special Education Support (property tax)	\$ 36,143,124	\$ 36,475,684	\$ 37,652,499	\$ 38,732,253
Special Education Support (State aid)	\$ 136,114,165	\$ 137,739,188	\$ 141,596,017	\$ 146,556,852
Special Education Support Budget Guarantee (property tax)	\$ 1,158,851	\$ 1,591,125	\$ 961,638	\$ 583,842
Supplementary Weighting - Sharing (State aid)	\$ 116,835	\$ 140,640	\$ 164,303	\$ 140,908
Supplementary Weighting - Sharing (property tax)	\$ 33,171	\$ 39,364	\$ 45,704	\$ 39,098
Media Services (property tax)	\$ 30,115,802	\$ 30,448,181	\$ 31,350,594	\$ 32,342,932
Educational Services (property tax)	\$ 33,272,492	\$ 33,637,154	\$ 34,636,751	\$ 35,732,827
State Aid Reduction (State aid)	\$ -22,500,000	\$ -22,500,000	\$ -24,557,141	\$ -29,557,131
Teacher Salary Supplement (State aid)	\$ 16,845,976	\$ 17,097,333	\$ 17,558,139	\$ 18,161,248
Professional Development (State aid)	\$ 1,975,199	\$ 2,005,047	\$ 2,057,131	\$ 2,129,331
Total School Finance Formula Funding	\$ 233,275,615	\$ 236,673,716	\$ 241,465,635	\$ 244,862,160
State Aid Amount	\$ 132,552,175	\$ 134,482,208	\$ 136,818,449	\$ 137,431,208
State Aid Percentage of Total	56.8%	56.8%	56.7%	56.1%
Property Tax Amount	\$ 100,723,440	\$ 102,191,508	\$ 104,647,186	\$ 107,430,952
Property Tax Percentage of Total	43.2%	43.2%	43.3%	43.9%

Funding and Enrollment by AEA – FY 2024



Note: Funding per pupil is calculated using State payments to AEAs and the total enrollment served. The total enrollment served is the sum of the budget enrollment plus resident accredited nonpublic students minus shared-time nonpublic students.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [273](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [281—72](#)

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